

Filed for intro on 06/21/2001

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 574
By Turner (Shelby)

A RESOLUTION To honor Mae D. Houston, longtime teacher in the Memphis City School System and community leader and activist.

WHEREAS, The members of this General Assembly are proud to recognize those dedicated educators, community leaders and civic activists who during their careers have done so much to improve the lives of their fellow citizens and the prospects of the children of our state; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mae D. Houston is one such outstanding Tennessean who for 38 years has taught in the Memphis City School System, including 25 years of meritorious service as Grade Chairman; and

WHEREAS, The daughter of the late Mrs. Lela M. Jones, Mae Houston attended LaRose Elementary School and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1959; in 1963, she graduated from LeMoyne College with a Bachelor of Science Degree and then went on to earn a Master of Science Degree in Education from Memphis State University, now the University of Memphis; and

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WHEREAS, Mrs. Houston began her teaching career in 1963 at Alonzo Locke Elementary School; she taught at A.B. Hill for three years, Longview for two years, Alton for one year, Westwood for three years, served as a reading specialist for one year and has spent the rest of her 38-year career at Walker Elementary; and

WHEREAS, Mae Houston is past President of the Walker Elementary PTA and a life member of the PTA, and is a member of the Tennessee and the National Education Associations, and the Retired Teachers Association; she is a former mathematics and science lead teacher and the organizer and sponsor of the Walker Elementary School Majorettes and Drummers; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Houston is an active and devout member of the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church where she has served as an Usher for 40 years, and is a past President of the Number 2 Usher Board and past advisor to the Youth Usher Board; and

WHEREAS, Mae Houston's commitment to community activism is illustrated by her life membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, her membership in the Nob Hill Neighborhood Association, and her service as a volunteer and supporter of the Magnolia Youth Athletic Association and a volunteer tutor of neighborhood youth; she is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and Phi Delta Kappa - Beta Eta Chapter; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Houston is a Past Worthy Matron and Secretary, Rose of Sharon #126 Order of the Eastern Star; Past Loyal Lady Ruler, Memphis Assembly No. 10; Past Illustrious Commandress, Moolah Court No. 22; Honored Grand Associate Matron, Excelsior Group Chapter; Honorary Imperial Commandress; and Past Most Ancient Matron of Naomi Court No. 15, in addition to having held numerous other positions within the organization; and

WHEREAS, Mae Houston is fortunate to enjoy the love and support of Hiram Houston, her husband of 39 years; they are the proud parents of a son and a daughter and the loving grandparents of four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, A life so characterized by dedication, commitment and achievement is clearly worthy of our respect and appreciation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we pause in our deliberations to honor Mrs. Mae D. Houston of Memphis for her years of dedication to the well-being and instruction of the children of the City of Memphis, her persistence in the cause of community improvement, and for her life of commitment and purpose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we offer to Mrs. Houston our profound thanks and our best wishes for every success and satisfaction in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.